

Prime Stage Theatre

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Resource and Tour Guide

Timeline of Harper Lee and To Kill a Mockingbird

What events do you see that are similar to events in the book?



Dill in
Mockingbird

1924 Truman Capote, life-time friend of Ms. Lee and inspiration for Dill was born in New Orleans.

1926 Nelle Harper Lee was born on April 28th in Monroeville, which is midway between Montgomery and Mobile in southwest Alabama. She was the youngest of four children born to mother, Frances Cunningham Finch Lee and father, Amasa Coleman Lee, a leading attorney. She had two sisters, Alice and Louise, and a brother, Edwin. Harper Lee was a tomboy, and several **reminiscences** published by former schoolmates in the *Monroe Journal* testify to her playground ferocity.

1929 Martin Luther King, Jr. born in Atlanta, Georgia.

1929 - 1939 The Great Depression in the United States and the world.

1931 The **Scottsboro Incident** (information found in this Resource Guide).

1939 - 1945 World War II.



Martin Luther
King, Jr.

1945 - 1959

Lee studied law at the University of Alabama, and wrote for several student publications. Editor of the campus **humorous** magazine, Rammer-Jammer. Her final year was an **exchange** year at Oxford University, but she left a semester before completing her degree.

1950's

Lee moved to New York and worked as a reservation clerk with Eastern Air Lines and BOAC. She had written a number of short stories.



1952 Mary Badham born in Birmingham, Alabama.

1957

The original manuscript of *To Kill a Mockingbird* was submitted to the Lippincott publishing company as a series of short stories. Editor, Tay Hohoff, helped her rewrite it. They worked on it for two and a half years.

Mary Badham &
Gregory Peck

1959

Lee traveled to Kansas with lifelong friend Truman Capote to help research his non-fiction book, *In Cold Blood*.

1960

To Kill a Mockingbird published. Its timing coincided with stirrings of the Civil Rights Movement and became identified with the cause.



1961

To Kill a Mockingbird won the **Pulitzer Prize for Fiction**. An article – *Love: In Other Words*, was published in Vogue magazine. Another article, *Christmas to Me*, was published in McCall's magazine.

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Timeline of Harper Lee and To Kill a Mockingbird (continued)



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| 1962 | To <i>Kill a Mockingbird</i> became a triple-Oscar winning film starring Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch and Mary Badham as Scout. Harper Lee declined to write the screenplay, so Horton Foote wrote the screenplay. |
| 1963 | Pres. John Fitzgerald Kennedy assassinated in Dallas, Texas. |
| 1964 | The Civil Rights Act passed by United States Congress. |
| 1968 | Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. |
| 1990 | An honorary doctorate degree was presented to Harper Lee by the University of Alabama. |
| 1997 | Another honorary doctorate, of humane letters, was presented by Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. |
| 2005 | Lee accepted the Los Angeles Public Library Literary Award. |
| 2006 | Awarded another honorary degree by the University of Notre Dame. |
| 2007 | Harper Lee now lives principally in Monroeville, Alabama where she shares a home with her elder sister, Alice, who, at the age of 94, is still a practicing lawyer. |



The Pulitzer Prize is named for Joseph Pulitzer, an Hungarian-born, intense figure, Pulitzer was the most skillful of newspaper publishers, a passionate crusader against dishonest government, a fierce, hawk-like competitor who did not shrink from sensationalism in circulation struggles, and a visionary who richly endowed his profession. A Pulitzer Prize is the highest national honor given in print journalism, literary achievements, and musical compositions. It is administered by Columbia University in New York City. Visit <http://www.pulitzer.org/> for more information that would appeal to your students.

Lesson Suggestion - For more information on Harper Lee, including complete transcripts of interviews and an interesting look at Monroeville, Alabama, I suggest you and your students visit the following website – *Harper Lee Interviews* at <http://www.chepucto.ns.ca/culture/HarperLee/interviews.html>